



# Department of Environmental Protection

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder Meeting Mt. Hope Bay/Taunton River Estuary Monitoring Strategy

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Date: May 23rd, 2018

Time: 10 AM – 3:30 PM

Location: MassDEP Worcester Regional Office, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA

*Hosted by MassDEP in partnership with USGS*

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**PURPOSE:** MassDEP in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), is developing a water quality monitoring strategy for the Taunton River Estuary (TRE) and Mount Hope Bay (MHB). The goal of this effort is to collaboratively develop a monitoring strategy to answer key water quality questions for this water resource. The area of focus for this project extends from MHB and the Rhode Island border to just above the Taunton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). We will share our thoughts on the monitoring strategy and solicit stakeholder input that will be used to inform the plan. MassDEP will provide an update on the marine dissolved oxygen (DO) criteria review and answer questions. Our ultimate goal for this effort is the development of a comprehensive monitoring strategy for the assessment, restoration, and protection of the TRE and MHB that we can all support and implement.

### AGENDA

#### MORNING SESSION

- 10:00 **Welcome, Introductions, Goals of the Meeting, Timelines**– Kimberly Groff, Ph.D., MassDEP  
*MassDEP will share our overarching goals for the MHB/TRE project and what we hope to achieve at this meeting.*
- 10:10 **MassDEP Marine Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Update**– Richard Carey, Ph.D., MassDEP  
*MassDEP will provide an update on the marine DO monitoring program and preliminary findings.*
- 10:30 **Briefing on the Marine Dissolved Oxygen Criteria Review** – Kimberly Groff, Ph.D., MassDEP  
*MassDEP will provide a summary of work to date, findings, and next steps related to our review of marine DO criteria.*
- 11:00 **Core Monitoring Objectives - Sampling & Analysis Plan (SAP)** – David Armstrong, USGS  
*USGS will share preliminary plans to collect water quality data to assess the MHB/TRE against MA surface water quality standards in the study area, and delineate the upper extent of the salt wedge in the Taunton River.*
- 11:30 **Monitoring to Measure Loads and Flow for the MHB/TRE Monitoring Strategy**-- Alana Spaetzel, USGS  
*USGS will describe the considerations and the approach to measure and quantify nutrient and other pollutant loads in the study area.*
- 12:00 **Morning Wrap-up**-- Kimberly Groff, Ph.D., MassDEP

**LUNCH BREAK – BRING YOUR OWN OR CONTRIBUTE \$5 EACH TOWARD PIZZA AND SALAD**

## **AFTERNOON SESSION**

- 1:00 **Who is Sampling What? Where? and How?** MassDEP will share our understanding of stakeholder monitoring activities in the Study Area-- Kimberly Groff, Ph.D., MassDEP  
*MassDEP will present our current inventory of monitoring programs and partners.*
- 1:30 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS - We are looking for your input!** -- Kimberly Groff, Ph.D., MassDEP  
*The breakout will include small groups, each consisting of stakeholders representing a variety of backgrounds. Each stakeholder will be provided the opportunity to provide input on the monitoring strategy and express their interests and perspective.*
- *Have we captured your interests in monitoring? If not Why?*
  - *Have we captured your past/current and future plans for water quality monitoring in the region?*
  - *Are you planning to contribute to the MHB/TRE Monitoring Strategy? If so, how?*
  - *How can we assist?*
- 2:30 **BREAKOUT GROUP REPORTS** – Moderator: Anna Mayor, MassDEP  
*Attendees will reconvene, and each breakout group will report their findings. This will provide an opportunity to identify common themes and identify follow-up work.*
- 3:00 **COLLECTIVE DISCUSSION AND WRAP-UP** – facilitated by Kimberly Groff, Ph.D., MassDEP
- 3:30 **ADJOURN**